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EXAMINER

SALTARELLI, DOMINIC D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2611

DATE MAILED: 07/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/723,079	IWAMURA, RYUICHI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Dominic D. Saltarelli	2611	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 April 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-54 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-54 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed April 27, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. First, applicant states that the server referred to in the Abraham reference does not equate to the claimed server. However, the applicant states that "The term 'server' is commonly understood to provide a one to many relationship, wherein the server can 'serve' content to any devices connected on a network, and this is how the term 'server' is used in Applicant's invention" (applicant's remarks, page 15). A "one to many" relationship to the plural devices connected to the distribution box is precisely what Abraham teaches. Simply because the distribution box uses dedicated hardware for each client does not exclude it from being a server as the term is used in the applicant's invention. Second, applicant states that Abraham does not teach passing commands from a remote control, through a first device, and over a power line network for use by a second device (applicant's remarks, page 17). However, as shown below regarding claim 1, Abraham teaches sending commands from a remote control through a first device, namely remote device 36, described in the cited portion of Abraham, col. 5, lines 39-61.
2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 2, 40, 48, and all dependent claims thereof have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

or

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Abraham (5,592,482, of record).

Regarding claim 1, Abraham discloses an apparatus for controlling video and audio components distribution over a power line communications (PLC) network (fig. 1), comprising:

A server (fig. 1, distribution box 12) configured for controlling the communication of video and audio streams between media devices connected for communicating over said PLC network (col. 4, lines 47-49); and

Means for interpreting commands (fig. 1, selector 22, 24, 26, or 28), received from a user through one of said media devices and communicated to said server, and controlling the communication of media content to said media devices and said server in response thereto (col. 5, lines 39-61).

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5. Claims 2-8, 10-14, 19, 40-49, 53, and 54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Edson (6,526,581, of record).

Regarding claim 2, Edson discloses an apparatus for controlling video and audio components distribution over a power line communications (PLC) network (fig. 1, power line 23), comprising:

A server (fig. 1, gateway 13) configured for controlling the communication of video and audio streams between media devices connected for communicating over said PLC network (col. 4, lines 36-44, wherein communication between devices is accomplished using router 103, col. 9, lines 52-63 and col. 10, lines 46-65);

Wherein any of a plurality of media devices may be coupled for communication with said server (col. 5, lines 25-35);

A PLC interface (fig. 2, power line interface 123) coupled to said server for communicating with remote media devices connected over said PLC network (col. 9 line 64 – col. 10 line 6); and

Programming associated with said server interface for interpreting command codes received over said PLC network from said media devices and controlling the operation of said media devices connected over said PLC network in response to command codes received and interpreted by said server which were received over said PLC network (col. 15, line 29-48).

Regarding claim 3, Edson discloses the apparatus of claim 2, where said server operates as a media server and media devices configured for communicating with said server over said PLC network operating as clients of said server according to a client-server model (col. 9, lines 15-20).

Regarding claim 4, Edson discloses the apparatus of claim 2, wherein the apparatus further comprises a media device configured for receiving commands from said server and for transmitting media content over said PLC network to or from said server (devices share resources with each other, col. 8, lines 52-65, where devices request content from other devices and from external networks via the gateway, col. 10, lines 46-65).

Regarding claim 5, Edson discloses the apparatus of claim 4, wherein said media device is configured for responding to commands received from a wireless remote control unit (the media devices include any available type of television selected by a user, fig. 1, TV 42, col. 6, lines 32-57, wherein a user adds a television controlled by a wireless remote control to the network).

Regarding claim 6, Edson discloses the apparatus of claim 5, wherein said wireless remote control unit utilizes infrared signals to communicate with said media device (in the event the TV selected by the user is coupled with an IR remote control).

Regarding claim 7, Edson discloses the apparatus of claim 5, wherein said media device is configured for communicating selected commands, including commands not directed at said media device, as received from said wireless remote control unit and communicated to said server over said PLC network (command data routed through the network from any media device is routed through the gateway, col. 10, lines 46-65, and any media device also sends command data directly to the gateway, col. 11, lines 20-29).

Regarding claim 8, Edson discloses the apparatus of claim 4, wherein said media devices include television sets (fig. 1, TV 42), video monitors (fig. 1, TV 42), audio systems (fig. 1, audio system 31), computer devices (col. 8, lines 38-51), personal computers (fig. 1, PC 43), and video recording units (VCR, col. 7, lines 47-49 and/or PC 43 in fig. 1).

Regarding claims 10 and 11, Edson discloses the apparatus of claim 2, wherein said server is configured for receiving video and audio content from a cable connection (col. 6, lines 27-39).

Regarding claim 12-14, Edson discloses the apparatus of claim 2, and further discloses a media storage element (fig. 2, hard disk drive 107) connected to said server for the retrieval of video and audio content for output from devices

over said PLC network (used for data storage as well as the programming, col. 9, lines 9-15).

Regarding claim 19, Edson discloses the apparatus of claim 2, wherein select remote control operating commands, which are not utilized by said media device receiving the commands from the remote control unit, are routed to a server for controlling devices operably coupled to said server (PC sends control commands through the gateway to control other appliances, col. 7, lines 44-57 and col. 15, lines 29-48).

Regarding claim 40, Edson discloses an apparatus configured for communicating video and audio streams over a power line communications network (PLC) in response to being remotely controlled by a server (any of the appliances shown fig. 1 connected to gateway 13 over power line 23), comprising:

A media device (fig. 1, TV 42) configured for outputting video and audio streams;

A power line communications interface (fig. 1, interface 322) coupled to said media device and configured for communicating commands as well as video and audio streams (col. 7 line 58 – col. 8 line 2);

Means for receiving control signals at said media device from a remote control unit (the media devices include any available type of television selected

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by a user, fig. 1, TV 42, col. 6, lines 32-57, wherein a user adds a television controlled by a wireless remote control to the network); and

Means for communication said control signals (fig. 1, interface 322), received at said media device from said remote control, said portion include those control signals which are not utilized by said media device, over said PLC network for receipt by a remote media server (devices share resources with each other, col. 8, lines 52-65, where devices request content from other devices and from external networks via the gateway, col. 10, lines 46-65).

Regarding claim 41, Edson discloses the apparatus of claim 40, wherein said remote media is configured for controlling the communication of media streams over said PLC network (col. 5, lines 36-44).

Regarding claim 42, Edson discloses the apparatus of claim 41, wherein said media device coupled to said PLC network is configured for transmitting media content output in response to commands received from said media server (any device can control any other device in the network by sending command data through the network via the gateway, col. 15, lines 29-39).

Regarding claims 43-44, Edson discloses the apparatus of claim 40, wherein said media device is a video display device (fig. 1, TV 42).

Regarding claim 45, Abraham discloses the apparatus of claim 40, wherein said means for receiving control signals comprises an infrared receiver on said media device which is configured for receiving signals from an infrared remote control device (as described above, the user has attached a TV which is controlled by a remote control, and it is within the scope of the disclosure for a user to select a TV controlled by an IR remote control).

Regarding claim 46, Edson discloses the apparatus of claim 45, wherein said means for communicating selected control signals comprises a circuit configured for receiving control signals and encoding said control signals upon said PLC network (fig. 1, device interface 322, col. 7 line 58 – col. 8 line 2) for receipt by another media device connected to said PLC network, wherein said signal do not match commands executed by the media device (as the commands are those that control the other media device, such as sending a play or record command to a VCR through a TV, or programming a microwave from a PC, col. 15, lines 29-39).

Regarding claim 47, Edson discloses the apparatus of claim 40, wherein said media devices (fig. 1, appliance 41, TV 42, and PC 43) are connected to one another over a PLC network (fig. 1, power line 23) and configured for receiving operational commands from a media server (fig. 1, gateway 13) also coupled to said PLC network (devices share resources and send command

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signals to each other over the PLC network via the gateway, col. 8, lines 52-65 and col. 9, lines 52-63 and col. 10, lines 45-65).

Regarding claim 48, Edson discloses an apparatus configured for communicating video and audio streams over a power line communications network in response to being remotely controlled by a server (fig. 1), comprising:

A media device (fig. 1, TV 42) configured for outputting video and audio streams as a client under the direction of a remote server (gateway 13 controls the various media devices connected to the network, col. 5, lines 36-44); and

A PLC interface (fig. 1, device interface 322) coupled to said media device configured for transferring digitally encoded streaming video and audio over a PLC network to said media device (col. 7 line 58 – col. 8 line 2).

Regarding claim 49, Edson discloses the apparatus of claim 48, and further discloses means for receiving operating commands over said PLC interface from other devices communicating over said PLC network (fig. 1, device interface 322), wherein said operating commands comprise commands directing media output for said media device (devices are configured for received control commands from the network, col. 15, lines 29-39).

Regarding claim 53, Edson discloses the apparatus of claim 48, and further discloses means for executing a plug-in-play interface for communication.

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operating parameters of said media device over said PLC interface (col. 11, lines 3-19).

Regarding claim 54, Edson discloses the apparatus of claim 48, wherein said media device is a video playback device (fig. 1, TV 42).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 9, 15, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edson.

Regarding claim 9, Edson discloses the apparatus of claim 2, but fails to disclose means for encrypting and decrypting data communications between said server and said media devices over said PLC network.

The official notice taken that it is notoriously well known to provides means for encrypting and decrypting communications between devices over networks, for enhancing the security of communications over said network, was not traversed by the applicant; and is thus taken as an admission of the facts presented.

Therefore, it would have been obvious at the time to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the apparatus disclosed by Edson to include means for encrypting and decrypting data communications between said server and said media devices over said PLC network, for the benefit of enhancing the security of communications between devices over said network.

Regarding claims 15 and 16, Edson discloses the apparatus of claim 13, but fails to disclose an external communications link coupling said hard disk drive to said server that comprises an IEEE 1394 interface.

The official notice taken that it is notoriously well known in the art to utilize IEEE 1394 interfaces, otherwise known as "firewire", as a communication link between devices, as IEEE 1394 provides a standardized and high speed communications medium, was not traversed by the applicant, and is taken as an admission of the facts presented.

Therefore, it would have been obvious at the time to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the apparatus disclosed by Edson to include an IEEE 1394 interface, for the benefit of utilizing a standardized and high speed communications medium between the hard disk drive and the server.

8. Claims 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edson in view of Filisan (WO 99/37092, of record).

Regarding claim 17, Edson discloses the apparatus of claim 2, but fails to disclose means for isolating a virtual network portion of said PLC network from other virtual network portions sharing a single physical power line distribution transformer.

In an analogous art, Filisan teaches means (fig. 3, filters 15) for isolating portions of a network from other network portions (page 5, lines 9-22) that share a single source (fig. 3, mixer 3), isolating network portions so that the signals on them are only accessible by those who wish to receive them.

It would have been obvious at the time to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the apparatus disclosed by Edson to include means for isolating virtual network portions of the network from other portions sharing a single physical distribution transformer, as taught by Filisan, for the benefit of isolating network portions so that the signals on them are only accessible by those who wish to receive them, and block from those who do not.

Regarding claim 18, Edson and Filisan disclose the apparatus of claim 17, wherein said means for isolating said virtual network portion comprises a blocking filter connected to the power line for isolating portions of said physical power line from one another (Filisan, page 5, lines 9-12).

9. Claims 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edson in view of Tsai (5,161,012, of record).

Regarding claim 20, Edson discloses the apparatus of claim 19, but fails to disclose an infrared mouse connected to said server for converting commands from said server into infrared commands configured for being received and interpreted by a media device having an infrared control port.

In an analogous art, Tsai teaches receiving control commands at a server and converting the commands into infrared commands via an infrared re-transmitter to be received and interpreted by a media device having an infrared control port (upstream control signals for controlling a video source received over a power line are rebroadcast via IR transmitter 112, col. 2 line 58 – col. 3 line 10), eliminating the need for any special direct wiring for sending received control signals to the media device.

It would have been obvious at the time to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the apparatus disclosed by Edson to include an infrared mouse (infrared re-transmitter 112) connected to said server for converting commands from said server into infrared commands configured for being received and interpreted by a media device having an infrared control port, as taught by Tsai, for the benefit of eliminating the need for any special direct wiring or other obtrusive physical connections for sending received control signals to the media device.

Regarding claim 21, Edson and Tsai disclose the apparatus of claim 20, wherein said server is configured for sending commands over said infrared

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mouse to a media device not configured with a PLC interface (Edson teaches communicating with devices configured for wireless networking, col. 7, lines 10-15 and col. 10, lines 46-65) in combination with controlling the receipt or transmission of video and audio streams from said media device (the gateway controls the operations of connected devices, col. 5, lines 36-44).

10. Claims 22-24, and 50-52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edson in view of Manis et al. (US 2004/0006484 A1, of record) [Manis].

Regarding claims 22, 50, and 51, Edson discloses the apparatus of claims 2 and 48, but fails to disclose means for adjusting decoding latency between media devices connected to said PLC network to synchronize output timing.

In an analogous art, Manis teaches a means for adjusting decoding latency between media devices connected to a PLC network to synchronize output timing (paragraphs 19 and 32), ensuring the outputs of the devices are synchronized when reproducing content.

It would have been obvious at the time to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the apparatus disclosed by Edson to include means for adjusting decoding latency between media devices connected to said PLC network to synchronize output timing, as taught by Manis, for the benefit of ensuring the outputs of the audio and video media devices are synchronized when displaying an audio/visual presentations for optimal viewer enjoyment.

Regarding claim 23, Edson and Manis disclose the apparatus of claim 22, and additionally disclose said means for adjusting decoding latency is executed by said server for controlling decoding delay within said media devices configured for connection to said PLC network (Manis, fig. 1, source 6, paragraph 19).

Regarding claims 24 and 52, Edson and Manis disclose the apparatus of claims 22 and 51, wherein said means for adjusting decoding latency comprises increasing or decreasing the buffering of streams for devices to change the decoding delay (Manis, paragraphs 35 and 36, wherein speakers which receive data more quickly than others subsequently increase the buffering of streams in response to the timing beacon).

11. Claims 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edson in view of Ostrover (6,351,596, of record).

Regarding claim 25, Edson discloses the apparatus of claim 2, but fails to disclose means for live pausing of content being viewed, wherein after unpausing play the programming can be viewed without loss.

In an analogous art, Ostrover teaches utilizing personal video recorders (the commercially available ReplayTV and TiVo, col. 4, lines 35-44) which allow for the pausing of live broadcasts by using hard drives to digitally store content

as it is received, so that a user may pause a live broadcast and resume watching later it without loss, as the material is constantly recorded on said hard drive.

It would have been obvious at the time to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the apparatus disclosed by Edson to include means for live pausing of content being viewed, wherein after un-pausing play the programming can be viewed without loss, as taught by Ostrover, for the benefit of allowing users to watch live broadcasts with the same freedom and flexibility benefits of recorded programming.

Regarding claim 26, Edson disclose the apparatus of claim 25, wherein said means for live pausing stores content upon a storage device for delayed playback and while paused continues to store the programming for later resumption from the paused location (these are operational characteristics of the disclosed ReplayTV and TiVo systems).

12. Claims 27, 28, 30, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edson in view of Gray et al. (US 2004/0163130 A1; of record) [Gray].

Regarding claim 27, Edson discloses the apparatus of claim 2, but fails to disclose means for controlling access within said PLC network.

In an analogous art, Gray teaches a local video distribution over power line carrier network (paragraph 26) wherein the central server (controlling PC, paragraph 28) controls access within said PLC network (paragraph 29), enabling

parental control over usage of media devices connected to the network from the central server (paragraph 39).

It would have been obvious at the time to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the apparatus disclosed by Edson to include means for controlling access with said PLC network, as taught by Gray, for the benefit of enabling parental control features so that parents may monitor and selectively restrict access to media devices by their children.

Regarding claim 28, Edson and Gray disclose the apparatus of claim 27, wherein the parental controls are established for limiting content access by password (Gray, paragraph 38, password protected parental control of a set top box).

Regarding claim 30, Edson discloses the apparatus of claim 2, but fails to disclose means for locking the operations of a first media device for which commands have been received from a second media device, said locking preventing media devices other and said second media device from altering the operations of said first media device.

In an analogous art, Gray teaches locking the operations of a first media device for which commands have been received from a second media device (the second media device, the controlling PC, paragraph 28, enables parental control features which locks the operations of a second media device, the home

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set top boxes, paragraphs 38 and 39), said locking preventing media devices other and said second media device from altering the operations of said first media device (as said parental control feature is only available from the second media device, the PC, paragraph 39), for the benefit of providing parental control features over media devices.

It would have been obvious at the time to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the apparatus of Edson to include means for locking the operations of a first media device for which commands have been received from a second media device, said locking preventing media devices other and said second media device from altering the operations of said first media device, as taught by Gray, for the benefit of providing parental control features over media devices which many parents desire which enables them to control the content available to their children.

Regarding claim 31, Edson and Gray disclose the apparatus of claim 30, wherein said means for locking may be bypassed utilizing a password (Gray teaches the parental control feature is password protected, paragraph 38).

13. Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edson and Gray as applied to claim 27 above, and further in view of Ellis (US 2004/0103434 A1, of record).

Regarding claim 29, Edson and Gray disclose the apparatus of claim 28, but fail to disclose multiple levels of content limits are established.

In an analogous art, Ellis teaches establishing multiple levels of content limits (parental controls that are based upon rating, paragraph 72), allowing for a fine granularity in controlling access to content on a media device.

It would have been obvious at the time to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the apparatus disclosed by Abraham, Gray, and Ellis to includes establishing multiple levels of content limits, as taught by Ellis, for the benefit of allowing for a fine granularity in controlling access to content by parents on a media device.

14. Claims 32 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edson in view of Gerszberg et al. (US 2002/0012353 A1, of record) [Gerszberg].

Regarding claims 32 and 33, Edson discloses the apparatus of claim 2, but fails to disclose means for controlling and prioritizing the portion of said bandwidth to be utilized by a given media device configured for communication over said PLC network with said server.

In an analogous art, Gerszberg teaches a home network system (fig. 1, customer premises equipment 10 and 22) wherein the amount of bandwidth made available to each of the media devices is controlled and prioritized by a central server (fig. 1, ISD 22, paragraph 60), efficiently utilizing the available bandwidth over the network.

It would have been obvious at the time to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the apparatus disclosed by Edson to include means for controlling and prioritizing the portion of said bandwidth to be utilized by a given media device configured for communication over a network with said server, as taught by Gerszberg, for the benefit of efficiently utilizing the limited available bandwidth over the PLC network.

15. Claims 34 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edson in view of Na (5,296,931, of record).

Regarding claims 34 and 35, Edson discloses the apparatus of claim 2, but fails to disclose means for communicating multiple video and audio streams to a given media device from said server and configured for displaying picture in picture.

In an analogous art, Na teaches receiving plural audio-visual streams at a given media device from a common source which are configured for display using picture in picture (col. 3, lines 38-62 and col. 4 line 66 – col. 5 line 2) enabling a user to view two channels at once.

It would have been obvious at the time to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the apparatus disclosed by Edson to include means for communicating multiple video and audio streams to a given media device from said server and configured for displaying picture in picture, as taught by Na, for receiving two channels at once, for the benefit of enabling a user to view two

channels at once, which assists in finding new content while maintaining the display of the original channel (enhanced channel surfing).

16. Claims 36-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edson in view of Bullock et al. (6,246,868, of record) [Bullock].

Regarding claim 36, Edson discloses the apparatus of claim 2, but fails to disclose an AC adapter configured for powering an electronic device unable to operate directly from AC line power.

In an analogous art, Bullock teaches an apparatus which utilizes AC adapters configured for powering electronic devices which are unable to operate directly from AC line power (extension units 102 operate to allow telephone equipment to operate using AC lines, col. 3, lines 5-34), for the benefit of providing dynamic telephone service in locations where little or no availability exists for dedicated telephone wires (col. 1, lines 12-15 and col. 4, lines 2-9).

It would have been obvious at the time to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the apparatus disclosed by Edson to include an AC adapter configured for powering an electronic device unable to operate directly from AC line power, as taught by Bullock, for the benefit of providing dynamic telephone service in homes and other locations which use AC power line wiring but where little or no availability exists for dedicated telephone wires.

Regarding claim 37, Edson and Bullock disclose the apparatus of claim 36, wherein said AC adapter is configured for communicating data between said electronic device and devices coupled to the AC power line (Bullock teaches the adapter also handles computer modem communications, col. 4, lines 10-16), wherein said AC power line is to be utilized as a power communications network (Bullock, col. 2 line 57 – col. 3 line 4).

Regarding claims 38 and 39, Edson and Bullock disclose the apparatus of claim 37, wherein said electronic device unable to operate directly from AC line power is a portable device (telephones are portable devices).

Conclusion

17. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new grounds of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

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the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

18. The following are suggested formats for either a Certificate of Mailing or Certificate of Transmission under 37 CFR 1.8(a). The certification may be included with all correspondence concerning this application or proceeding to establish a date of mailing or transmission under 37 CFR 1.8(a). Proper use of this procedure will result in such communication being considered as timely if the established date is within the required period for reply. The Certificate should be signed by the individual actually depositing or transmitting the correspondence or by an individual who, upon information and belief, expects the correspondence to be mailed or transmitted in the normal course of business by another no later than the date indicated.

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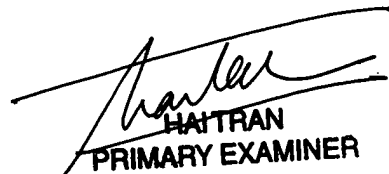
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dominic D. Saltarelli whose telephone number is (571) 272-7302. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:00am - 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Grant can be reached on (571) 272-7294. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Dominic Saltarelli
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2611

DS



HAITRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER